

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A home and/or doctor's office test kit for detection of a food allergy in an individual, the kit comprising:

(a) a vessel for mixing a stool specimen with a diluting liquid to produce a diluted stool specimen;

(b) a housing ~~holding within a substrate~~ separate from said vessel and holding therewithin a substrate,

the substrate comprising at least one zone containing food antigens,

the housing further comprising reagents for producing a visually detected reaction when an antibody-food antigen complex is formed,

the housing further comprising at least one conveying means for receiving diluting stool specimen and transferring it to the food-antigen containing zone of the substrate;

(c) wherein the housing further comprises an indicator for showing the presence of the visually detected reaction for the presence of antibodies against food antigens.

2. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the food antigens are immobilized on the substrate in the zone containing the food antigens.

3. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a capillary structure and the conveying means are the capillary forces of the substrate.

4. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a porous structure and the conveying means are the absorbent forces of the substrate.

5. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate is selected from: nitrocellulose sheets, paper, gel-films, cellulose acetate, glass fibers, glass papers, and agarose gel.

6. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the indicator is an opening in a housing showing above the zone of the substrate containing the food antigens.

7. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the diluting liquid is selected from distilled water, formalin solution, sodium acetate solution, sodium acetate solution with a detergent.

8. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the visually detected reaction is obtained by binding of an anti-human antibody, conjugated to a detectable label, to antibody-food antigen complex.

9. (original) A kit according to Claim 8, wherein the anti-human antibody is conjugated to a gold particle.

10. (original) A kit according to Claim 8, wherein the anti-human antibody is conjugated to an enzyme capable in the presence of a suitable substrate, to produce a visually detected reaction.

11. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, for the detection of a single food allergy.

12. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, for the detection of two or more food allergies, wherein each antigen for the detection of the food allergy, is immobilized on a separate zone on the substrate, and wherein each indicator is an opening in the housing above said separate zone.

13. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, further comprising a scooping device.

14. (original) A kit according to Claim 13, wherein the scooping device is an integral part of a cap for the vessel.

15. (original) A kit according to Claim 1, further comprising a disposable container for collecting stools.

16. (withdrawn) A method for detecting the presence of a food allergy in an individual, suspected of having such an allergy, the method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a stool specimen from the individual;
- (b) diluting the stool specimen with a diluting liquid to produce a diluted stool specimen;
- (c) introducing the stool specimen into the kit according to Claim 1; and
- (d) viewing the indicator, the presence of a visually detected reaction in the indicator, indicating the presence of food allergy in the individual.

17. (Canceled)